

✓ Last year the Kaiser got irritated on account of the many notes he was receiving from Mr. Wilson; and in a burst of anger forgot his discretion, but not his purpose, and said to Mr. Gerard, our ambassador, "You just wait till I finish this war, and I'll stand no more nonsense from the United States." The whole course of events points with unerring certainty to the Kaiser's plan to bring Europe to its knees, and then rattle his sword in the face of this Government.

The original plan did not contemplate a direct frontal attack on us. Germany is entirely too smart for that. No one has ever said that Germany had no sense. The truth is, she has too much. The most dangerous man in this community is not a feeble-minded man, but the man that has the most sense and the least character. That is the position that today Germany occupies in the family of nations, and because she has so much sense and so little character, the conscience of the world is in arms against her. The plan was this: Down in Brazil there are strong German influences. At a signal from the Kaiser the Germans in Brazil would incite a revolution, and then, for the avowed purpose of protecting German citizens and German property, the Kaiser would intervene and establish a protectorate over Brazil; and then with the Brazilian fleet added to his own, with the mightiest army the world has ever seen, flushed with victory at his back, the Kaiser would turn to us and coolly inquire, "Now, my Uncle Samuel, what in the thunder are you going to do about it?" And what would we do, and what could we do? Just one of two things. We could salute, bow low, and say, "Dear Mr. Kaiser, be assured that there will be no trouble between us and thee. We suppose that you are thinking of that ancient doctrine sometimes called the Monroe Doctrine; but pray do not allow that to disturb you. We never did mean a word of it. It is just a great big international joke. It is true it is about the only thing we have. It is the one foreign policy that we have proclaimed. It is true that it has kept the peace of this continent for a hundred years and saved twenty baby republics to the south of us from being gobbled up by kings of Europe; but we never did mean it; it was all bluff, sounding brass and tinkling cymbal; and so good morning, Mr. Kaiser, and good day, Mr. Kaiser, and may you live long and prosper." We could have said that, and at once in our own estimation and in the estimation of all lands sunk below the level of a hound pup. The contempt for the United States in such a case would have been such that from Shanghai to Bagdad principalities and powers would join in the taunting chorus, "The United States ain't nothing but a hound, and any old country can kick her around."

Of course we would not say it. We would stand by our honor and our traditions. Unaided and alone, without the help or sympathy of any other nation, we would go down into the southern seas and fight it out with Germany at a place of her own choosing. Of course we would lose in such a fight, and then Germany would commence her triumphant advance. She would seize all the baby republics, for a single battleship can overpower any one of them; and then, coming on north, she would intrigue with Mexico that is always ready to intrigue with anybody against the United States; and, landing her victorious soldiers in Mexican ports, would establish a new Hindenburg line along the Rio Grande, and soon Texas would be another Belgium.

Despite these facts, which are as plain as day, we find a few people, more feeble-minded than faint-hearted, who still insist that we ought to wait until the German hordes are treading our own soil, till the whirr of the Zeppelins is heard above our cities, and then call out our militia and clean up the whole crowd before